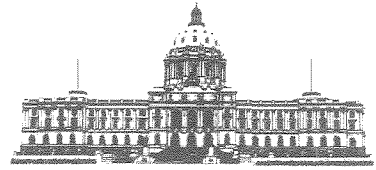


THOMAS M. BAKK

DFL Senate Leader
Senator District 6
147 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: (651) 296-8881
Fax: (651) 225-7572
Email: www.senate.mn/senatorbakkemail



Senate

State of Minnesota

July 29, 2011

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Technical Working Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to encourage the Commission to support expanded development of wireless Internet broadband and universal cell phone coverage.

I represent the most isolated legislative district in Minnesota, with many of my constituents wedged between the Canadian border to the North and national parks and forests to the South. Too many of my constituents live in communities with expensive wireless communications. This creates barriers to economic development because high-tech industries are prevented from developing operations in Minnesota if rates are cheaper elsewhere. This relegates Minnesota communities to second-class status as the rest of the country and world races ahead in the Information Age. Even in communities that do have wireless connections, high prices and congestion discourage high-tech companies from locating there. High-paying high-tech jobs with good benefits will not come to Northeastern Minnesota if we don't have reliable and affordable wireless broadband.

My constituents also lack reliable cell phone coverage. While this inconvenient and frustrating for me, for a person driving home alone in January who slides into a ditch, it can be a life-threatening situation. It also impedes the ability of First Responders on an ambulance rig or law enforcement personnel to communicate with hospitals, family members and others who can be of assistance in a crisis.



I know that expanding access to 21st century telecommunications for all is a priority for the Commission. I appreciate that and encourage the Commission to redouble its efforts to increase access to reliable wireless broadband Internet and cell phone coverage for all, including those in rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Bakk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Bakk" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas M. Bakk
DFL Caucus Leader
State Senator, District 6